MEMORANDUM

TO: EPSCoR Community

FROM: OIA Office Head

SUBJECT: Assignment of Dr. Sandra Richardson as EPSCoR Section Head

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Sandra Richardson as the Section Head for the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) section within the Office of Integrative Activities (OIA), effective February 13, 2022. Prior to Dr. Richardson’s start date, I will serve as the Acting Section Head of EPSCoR.

Dr. Richardson comes to the OIA from the Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR), where she currently serves as the Acting Deputy Division Director in DUE and is the former Program Lead for the NSF Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. In 2020, Dr. Richardson also served as Acting Director of the Science & Engineering Indicators Program in the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. Dr. Richardson has held several other leadership positions during her time at NSF, including serving as Executive Secretary for the EHR Advisory Committee’s Subcommittee on Broadening Participation, a member of the Federal Coordination in STEM Education Interagency Working Group on Strategic Partnerships, and a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute.

In these NSF roles, she has collaborated with colleagues to oversee the research and development (R&D) agenda for undergraduate mathematics, STEM education, and the condition and progress of STEM R&D in the United States. She also manages a portfolio of innovative and competitive mathematics and STEM education research projects. Through leading the Congressionally-legislated Noyce program, working in NSF programs to support early career faculty, being a champion for enhancing and diversifying STEM workforce development, and serving in different NSF leadership roles, Dr. Richardson has experience serving as a part of senior leadership and management teams, overseeing internal program operations, building internal and external collaborative relationships, helping to form strategies and conduct future planning, and evaluating program success. Broadening participation and improving R&D capacity and competitiveness in all types of institutions and geographic areas in the United States are threaded throughout her daily work at NSF.

Prior to joining the National Science Foundation, she served as an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Virginia State University. While at VSU, Dr. Richardson was instrumental in increasing the number of undergraduate mathematics majors and retaining them through completion of their baccalaureate program and broadening participation of African Americans in undergraduate STEM and STEM education research experiences. Her research and
scherly interests have been motivated by the intersection of her personal and professional experiences as a student, teacher, and academic. Dr. Richardson’s research interests include overseeing undergraduate research, mathematics teacher preparation and leadership development, and broadening participation in undergraduate STEM education. She brings to her new role in the EPSCoR section expertise in creating strategic partnerships among researchers and strengthening the STEM capacity and capability of diverse institutions.

Dr. Richardson earned her B.S. in Mathematics from Dillard University and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from Purdue University.

I would like to thank Dr. Loretta Moore on behalf of OIA and the EPSCoR Section for her exceptional service as Section Head since January 22, 2018. Her deep knowledge about the program coupled with her commitment and service to NSF allowed her to be a truly effective leader.

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Alicia J. Knoedler
Office Head